

Amendments in the Claims: (struck-through parts deleted and underlined parts added)

1. (currently amended) A device for leashing an animal, said device comprising:

an elongated flexible member;

5 a runner, said flexible member extending through said runner such that said runner may be selectively positioned along a length of said flexible member, wherein said runner includes:

a housing having a upper wall, a lower wall, a first lateral wall and a
10 second lateral wall such that ~~than~~ an elongated aperture is defined
extending through said housing and between said upper and lower
walls, said first lateral wall having a slot extending therethrough
and into said aperture, said slot being orientated substantially
perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said housing extending
through said upper and lower walls, wherein said flexible member
15 may be extended through said slot for selective positioning into
said runner;

a first guide wheel being rotatably mounted in said aperture and being
positioned nearer said upper wall of said housing, said first guide
20 wheel having a rotational axis orientated substantially
perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and perpendicular to a plane
of said first lateral wall, said first guide wheel having a perimeter
edge having a peripheral depression extending therein for
releasably receiving said flexible member;

a saddle being mounted in said aperture and being positioned between said
25 first guide wheel and said lower wall of said housing, said saddle
being selectively movable toward and away from said first guide
wheel, a second guide wheel being rotatably mounted in said
saddle such that said first and second guide wheels abut when said
saddle is positioned toward said first guide wheel, said second
30 guide wheel having a rotational axis orientated substantially
parallel to said rotational axis of said first guide wheel, said second

guide wheel having a perimeter edge having a peripheral depression extending therein for releasably receiving said flexible member;

- 5 an elongated tubular member having a bend therein such that said elongated tubular member forms an obtuse angle, said flexible member extending through said elongated tubular member, a coupler being attached to said elongated tubular member for selectively coupling said elongated tubular member to a vertical structure; and
- 10 a leash having a first end and a second end, said first end of said leash being attached to said runner, wherein said second end of said leash may be releasably coupled to an animal.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

- 15 3. (currently amended) The device for leashing an animal of claim 2 1, further including a biasing member being mounted in said aperture for biasing said saddle toward said first guide wheel.
- 20 4. (currently amended) The device for leashing an animal of claim 2 1, further including a loop being attached to said lower wall of said housing, said first end of said leash being attached to said loop.
- 25 5. (original) The device for leashing an animal of claim 1, further including a runner guide, said flexible member extending through said runner guide such that said elongated tubular member is positioned within said runner guide, wherein said runner may selectively pass through said runner guide.
- 30 6. (original) The device for leashing an animal of claim 5, wherein said runner guide includes an elongated sleeve having a top wall, a first side wall, a second side wall, an open bottom side and a pair of open ends, said coupler extending through said second side wall of said sleeve, said sleeve having a bend therein such that said first

side wall forms an angle having a measurement generally equal to said angle of said elongated tubular member.

7. (original) The device for leashing an animal of claim 6, wherein each of
5 said pair of open ends flaring outwardly.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

9. (original) The device for leashing an animal of claim 1, wherein said
10 coupler comprises a plate and a securing member, said plate being attached to and extending along a length of said elongated tubular member, said securing member comprising a tether being attached to and extending away from a free end of said plate.

10. (original) The device for leashing an animal of claim 1, wherein said
15 coupler comprises a plate and a securing member, said plate being attached to and extending along a length of said elongated tubular member, said securing member comprising a bracket being attached to and extending along a length of a free edge of said plate, a plurality of fasteners being selectively extendable through said bracket and into the vertical structure.

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11. (original) A device for leashing an animal, said device comprising:
an elongated flexible member, said flexible member comprising a cord;
a runner, said flexible member extending through said runner such that said
runner may be selectively positioned along a length of said flexible
25 member, said runner including;
a housing having a upper wall, a lower wall, an first lateral wall and a
second lateral wall such that than an elongated aperture is defined
extending through said housing and between said upper and lower
walls, said first lateral wall having a slot extending therethrough
30 and into said aperture, said slot being orientated substantially
perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said housing extending

through said upper and lower walls, wherein said flexible member may be extended through said slot for selective positioning into said runner;

5 a first guide wheel being rotatably mounted in said aperture and being positioned nearer said upper wall of said housing, said first guide wheel having a rotational axis orientated substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and perpendicular to a plane of said first lateral wall, said first guide wheel having a perimeter edge having a peripheral depression extending therein for
10 releasably receiving said flexible member;

a saddle being mounted in said aperture and being positioned between said first guide wheel and said lower wall of said housing, said saddle being selectively movable toward and away from said first guide wheel;

15 a biasing member being mounted in said aperture for biasing said saddle toward said first guide wheel;

a second guide wheel being rotatably mounted in said saddle such that said first and second guide wheels abut when said saddle is positioned toward said first guide wheel, said second guide wheel having a rotational axis orientated substantially parallel to said rotational axis of said first guide wheel, said second guide wheel having a perimeter edge having a peripheral depression extending therein
20 for releasably receiving said flexible member;

a loop being attached to said lower wall of said housing;

25 an elongated tubular member having a bend therein such that said elongated tubular member forms an obtuse angle, said flexible member extending through said elongated tubular member, a coupler being attached to said elongated tubular member for selectively coupling said elongated tubular member to a vertical structure;

30 a runner guide, said flexible member extending through said runner guide such that said elongated tubular member is positioned within said runner guide,

wherein said runner may selectively pass through said runner guide, said runner guide including;

an elongated sleeve having a top wall, a first side wall, a second side wall, an open bottom side and a pair of open ends, said coupler
5 extending through said second side wall of said sleeve, said sleeve having a bend therein such that said first side wall forms an angle having a measurement generally equal to said angle of said elongated tubular member, each of said pair of open ends flaring outwardly; and

10 a leash having a first end and a second end, said first end of said leash being attached to said loop, wherein said second end of said leash may be releasably coupled to an animal.

12. (new) A device for leashing an animal, said device comprising:

15 an elongated flexible member;

a runner, said flexible member extending through said runner such that said runner may be selectively positioned along a length of said flexible member;

20 an elongated tubular member having a bend therein such that said elongated tubular member forms an obtuse angle, said flexible member extending through said elongated tubular member, a coupler being attached to said elongated tubular member for selectively coupling said elongated tubular member to a vertical structure;

25 a runner guide, said flexible member extending through said runner guide such that said elongated tubular member is positioned within said runner guide, wherein said runner may selectively pass through said runner guide, said runner guide including an elongated sleeve having a top wall, a first side wall, a second side wall, an open bottom side and a pair of open ends, said coupler extending through said second side wall of said sleeve, said sleeve
30 having a bend therein such that said first side wall forms an angle having a

measurement generally equal to said angle of said elongated tubular member; and

a leash having a first end and a second end, said first end of said leash being attached to said runner, wherein said second end of said leash may be
5 releasably coupled to an animal.

13. (new) The device for leashing an animal of claim 12, wherein each of said pair of open ends flaring outwardly.